TL 2606

AETA

Australia-East Timor Association
PO Box 93, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Australia. Telephone: c/- 419 5588

MEETING WITH TONY LAMB MHR - 11th SEPTEMBER, 1987.

Introduction

Members of Parliament have played a significant role on the whole issue of East Timor in keeping it before the Government, which in itself has been an important part of the international campaign for East Timorese self-determination.

Following the departure from Parliament of so many MP's who have been long time supporters of East Timor, it is felt that we need to initiate some discussions with MP's on how to proceed. This is especially the case now given the primacy of seeking a political settlement to the conflict in East Timor consistent with internationally accepted principles.

Elements of the Proposal

1. To encourage the (ALP) Parliamentary East Timor Forum to continue; to actively inform itself about the situation, ask questions in the Parliament and seek new participants. The periodic circulation of reports on East Timor to all Members of Parliament, has been a significant supplement.

2. For the Forum to write and officially introduce itself to the Portuguese Parliamentary Committee on East Timor, requesting that it be kept informed of all initiatives and receive all reports and relevant statements.

   Also to enquire what has happened to the Portuguese Government's proposal to hold an International Conference of Members of Parliament on East Timor, for 1987.

3. For the Forum to write to the UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar, asking for a current briefing on the situation on East Timor. East Timor remains on the UN Decolonisation Committee's list of territories, and receives submissions from Government and non-Government representatives annually.

4. For the Forum to follow-up the initiative earlier this year for a Joint UK-Australian Delegation to East Timor. Mr Robert Tickner MHR was the initiator of this proposal. The joint nature of such a delegation would be important for it to increase its profile and impact.

In all this the Australian Coalition for East Timor (ACET) is prepared to be a resource and where possible assist in the preparation of briefs and supply of documentation.